

December 2021

A monthly publication of the
East Martin Christian Reformed Church



The Echoes



A View from the Pew

Love and THE Gift

Surely Christmas represents gifts (under the tree) for millions worldwide. For Christians, Christmas embodies Love in the flesh, the greatest Gift ever given. As we ponder (with Mary) the coming of our Savior, the Messiah, we turn to two women living two centuries and an ocean apart, who capture the essence of Christmas and what should be our response.

Nineteenth century English poet Christina Rossetti in 1885 penned "Love Came Down at Christmas," and contemporary American Rachel Kohler, in 2021, authored alternate lyrics to the favorite and well-known carol "Away in a Manger."

In this month's View from the Pew, we read these lyrics intertwined, Rossetti's words in bold type and Kohler's in italics.

**Love came down at Christmas,
Love all loving, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angel gave the sign.**

*Away in a manger, surrounded by sheep
Young Mary lays down her small newborn to sleep.
The shepherds bear witness as night turns to day
That Immanuel sleeps on damp, musty hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes
And what plaintive crying the poor child now makes.
For God comes as man, subject to hunger and cold.
High royalty lies 'midst humility untold.*

**Worship the Godhead
Love incarnate, love divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?**

**Love shall be our token,
Love shall be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and to all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.**

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, my Lord and my King,
For whom angel choirs and starry hosts sing.
You came here from heaven to die on a cross,
The great gift of God come to rescue the lost.*

God's amazing love leaves us amazed...His astounding love leaves us astounded...His wonderful love leaves us in wonder...His awesome love leaves us in awe! (Roy Lessin)

In Contact With Council



Les Lynema opened the December 14 meeting with a devotional entitled "Know Your Calling" and prayer.

Minutes of the Council meeting of November 9 were read and approved.

Reports:

- A. Deacon's report: General Fund receipts of \$21,229.30 leaves us \$3,406.99 short of ideal, and Ministry Shares receipts of \$4,802.00 leaves us \$3,257.94 short of ideal. The offering schedule for January, 2022 was approved as presented.
- B. The Worship Committee had our church piano tuned.
- C. Our Security Team was asked about security coverage for meetings other than worship services; they will discuss.
- D. The Search Committee will ask several other names on the short list if they would be open to a call.
- E. Men's Bible Study of Moses will start on December 15 at 7 pm.

Council reported on 15 visits or calls made.

Old Business:

- A. Plainwell Ministries reported 200 chairs donated by a church in Traverse City. Mark Immink has completed his RESONATE Partnership agreement, and is all set with CRCNA for his role at Plainwell. Mark is making connections and networking in the community.
- B. Student and military packages have been delivered. The group that worked on this would like to do it again in February. Cost was about \$175.

New Business:

- A. Pulpit supply is covered until evenings in January, 2022.
- B. Council will look into Profession of Faith classes this winter.
- C. Glenn Leep will order the "Keys for Kids" devotional for students.
- D. Julie Grevenstuk requested her membership be sent to Prairie Edge CRC; motion to approve passed.

Motion to adjourn passed at 8:55. Keith Smit closed with prayer. Next meeting is January 11.



The Search Committee was able to narrow down and pick a list of top 5 prospective pastors that we felt would be a good fit for East Martin. Out of the top 5 we ranked them 1 to 5. Our entire committee came up with the same number one pastor. We decided to inquire if he would even consider a call at this point in his ministry. We were all disappointed when he declined our invitation to consider a call.

As we continue in our search process for a new pastor, please keep our search committee and our church in your prayers.

Thank You

The family of Marion Visser would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and words of encouragement during his illness and his final home going.

The family would also like to thank everyone for continued prayers for Mary.

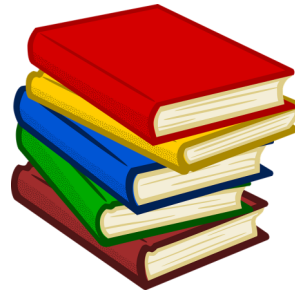
The Visser Family

MARC



In January the Martin Area Resource Center could use the following items:

- Shampoo/conditioner
- Bar soap/body wash
- Toothpaste/mouthwash
- Razors/deodorants
- Lotion, diapers and wipes



New Books in the Library in December

- THE GIFT OF PRAYER* — CHARLES STANLEY
- DUSK'S DARKEST SHORES* — CAROLYN MILLER
- NO JOURNEY TOO FAR* — CARRIE TURANSKY (MCALISTER Family #2)
- UNDER THE TEXAS MISTLETOE* — KAREN WITEMEYER. (Trio of Novellas)
- IF I WERE YOU* — LYNN AUSTIN. Should be read before the Wish Book Christmas
- THE WISH BOOK CHRISTMAS* — LYNN AUSTIN
- CHRISTMAS STORIES* — MAX LUCADO
- A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS* — 6 Historical Stories. Different authors.
- CROSSHAIRS* — PATRICIA BRADLEY (Natchez Trace Park Rangers #3)
- NIGHT FALL* — NANCY MEHL (Quantic Files #1)
- DEAD FALL* — NANCY MEHL (Quantic Files #2)
- TACOS FOR TWO* — BETSY ST. AMANT
- THE EDGE OF BELONGING* — AMANDA COX
- THE SECRET KEEPERS OF OLD DEPOT GROCERY* — AMANDA COX
- GOD, I KNOW YOU'RE GOOD* — JENSEN Bonnie Rickner PRIMARY
- NOTHING* — NATALIE CREECH PRIMARY
- DEAD END* — (RED ROCK MYSTERIES #15) YOUTH
- FRIENDS FOREVER* — SHANNON HALE YOUTH
- BEST FRIENDS* — SHANNON HALE YOUTH
- REAL FRIENDS* — SHANNON HALE YOUTH



Greeters

January 2: AM—Dennis and Linda DeYoung, Les Lynema; PM—Dave and Jean Mejeur
January 9: AM—Bruce and Sue Tiemeyer, Dave Misner; PM—Scott and Jen Tuinstra
January 16: AM—Les and Rena Lynema, Bob Katje; PM—Libby Dendel and Marcia Bouman
January 23: AM—Cadets, Harold Wykstra; PM—Jonathan and Amy Kalkman
January 30: AM—Nick and Nancy VanDerHeide; PM—Dan and Terri Jager

Ushers

January 2: Wayne Leep, Nick VanderHeide, Trey Rillema
January 9: Tim Westendorp, Earl Wykstra, Toby Smith
January 16: Jared Westendorp, Dave Misner, Josh Rillema
January 23: Cadets
January 30: Tom Westendorp, Kevin Bouman, Wes Leep

Nursery

January 2: Riley and Addison Tuinstra
January 9: Rebekah Westendorp
January 16: Jen, Violet and Willow Tuinstra
January 23: Laura DeMaagd
January 30: Hailey and Kaylee Tuinstra

Library

January 2: Linda DeYoung
January 9: Ida Westendorp
January 16: Rena Lynema
January 23: Linda DeYoung
January 30: Ida Westendorp

Shrimp Dip

1 can tomato soup
1 pkg Knox gelatin
1/4 cup water
10 oz-1 lb. shrimp
1/2 cup celery
1/2 cup green pepper (optional)
1/4 cup onion
1 cup Hellmann's mayonnaise
8 oz. cream cheese

Dissolve Knox gelatin in 1/4 cup water; heat to boiling and cool. Combine soup, gelatin, shrimp, celery, green pepper and onion. Blend cream cheese and mayonnaise. Combine with other ingredients.

November Tithes and Offerings

General Fund	\$21,229.30
Ministry Shares	4,802.00
Faith Promise	
East Martin Missions	460.00
Sharda	1,835.00
Smit	1,865.00
Tiemeyer	1,050.00
Walker	1,535.00
Guatemala Orphanage	1,385.00
Benevolence	100.00
Education Assistance	200.00
Sr. High Youth Group	252.00
GEMS	690.00
Cadets	550.00
Guatemala Mission Trip	40.00
East Martin Christian School	4,555.00
Kalamazoo Christian High School	325.00
Kalamazoo Christian Schools	100.00
Resonate Global Missions	740.00
Back to God Ministries	500.00
Bible League	284.00
World Renew—DRS	2,990.00
World Renew—General	50.00
Vacation Bible School	250.00
Son Life Camp	700.00
Guiding Light Mission	100.00
The Luke Society	294.00
CRC Disability	129.00
Martin Resource Center	710.00
Right to Life Education Fund	1,830.00
Don and Nancy Smith Fundraiser	14,197.00
Total	\$63,747.30

General Fund 3% behind
Ministry Shares 15% behind

Offering Schedule for January

January 2: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Back to God Ministries
January 9: AM—East Martin Christian School; PM—Bible League
January 16: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Youth For Christ
January 23: AM—Martin Resource Center; PM—Gideons
January 30: AM—General Fund/Ministry Shares; PM—Wycliff



And the angel said to them,

"Fear not,

for behold,

I bring you good news of

great joy

That will be for all the people.

For unto you is born this day
In the city of David, a Savior, who is

Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:10-11 ESV

Eternal hope, Eternal joy, Eternal life.
Celebrate God's great gift of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Christmas blessings!

Merry Christmas
From The Echoes staff